

monSanto

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11/14/80

FROM : [REDACTED] W. G. Krummrich Plant (2429)

DATE : November 14, 1980

cc: H.W. Curtis
S.G. Collins A3ND
J.H. Craddock B2SC
P.S. Park E2NE
W.B. Papageorge G4WA
R.H. Sinise

SUBJECT : "DEAD CREEK"

REFERENCE :

TO : J.W. Molloy

I tried to call John Renkes, Supervisor of the Emergency Response Unit of the Illinois EPA on Wednesday, November 12. He was unavailable until this afternoon. Our conversation was relaxed and friendly. There was no apparent tenseness or threatening mood or manner. I had prepared my comments in advance but talked in a two-way conversational manner.

The following is the scenario I followed:

Last Friday on an informal basis, you asked if Monsanto as a good neighbor, would consider assisting in the mitigation of the Dead Creek problem. I understood mitigation to mean remove the soil and dispose of it in a federally approved controlled site at Monsanto's expense.

We have considered this and we are not interested in participating in such a program.

As I stated Friday, we do not believe our plant caused the presence of PCB's in Dead Creek. I noted that the PCB manufacturing unit started operation in 1936 and the Sauget Village sewer system was completed in 1932. Therefore, no PCB's could escape to any surrounding area.

I still believe the cause of PCB's being present is most probably the midnight hauler.

CER 069939

005151

In thinking this whole situation over, it seems to me to be premature to talk about clean-up operation until more information is available. Since the water sample from the florist's well indicates no PCB's present, it would appear ground water contamination is not a problem. It would seem to me that the EPA's most viable course of action is to consider capping the creek with dirt.

We continue to offer our analytical services in any appropriate way. Our labs seem to be in close agreement on PCB's but your labs appeared to have some problem with elemental phosphorus.

John commented on "mitigation" and "removal of soil" that there are other ways but the EPA historically does not like to cover up hazardous wastes.

To our polite "we are not interested", he responded that at least they know where they stand. I repeat, this was a friendly non-threatening response. I would speculate that this does not mean we will never see the request again.

Please advise if there are any questions.

Paul E. Heisler 

/tm

CER 069940

PRESS QUERY

COMPANY (OpUnit or Corporate): MCI

SUBJECT: DISPOSAL OF WASTES IN LEO SAUGET DUMP

REPORTER & MEDIA: Pat Szymczak, Belleville Edition of
St. Louis Globe-Democrat

TIME & DATE: September 19, 1980

☒ News Bureau
☒ J. T. Nolan
☒ J. E. McKee
☒ J. v. Morse
☒ D. R. Bishop
☐ W. J. McCarville
☐ W. R. Mulhall
☐ J. F. Hussey-Washington, D.C.
☐ S. Pickard-Washington, D.C.
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☐ MTC PR
☐ INT'L PR
E. N. Brasfield
C. P. Cunningham
H. W. Curtis — 1740
M. Dmytryszyn
M. R. Foresman
P. E. Heisler — 1740
J. W. Molloy — 1740
W. B. Papageorge
P. S. Park
R. G. Potter
S. G. Collins

QUESTION & RESPONSE:

- Q. I HAVE LEARNED THAT A DUMP OWNED BY LEO SAUGET, EAST OF "DEAD CREEK" AND SOUTH OF QUEENY AVE., AROUND NICKELL AVE WAS USED TO DISPOSE OF WASTES FROM SEVERAL COMPANIES IN THE AREA, INCLUDING MONSANTO. CAN YOU CONFIRM?
- A. When Monsanto acquired the Commercial Acid Plant in 1917, we continued to dispose of industrial wastes at the plant had done in the past, and we used a landfill operated by Leo Sauget in that area, until the late '20s or early '30s. As we acquired more land, we stopped using that landfill sometime in the late '20s or early '30s.
- Q. WHERE DID YOU DISPOSE OF PLANT WASTES AFTER THAT PERIOD?
- A. We disposed of the chemical wastes on land owned by us.
- Q. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE PLANT WAS INVOLVED IN PRODUCING CHEMICAL WARFARE PRODUCTS AT THE PLANT DURING WORLD WAR II, AND THAT WASTES FROM THESE OPERATIONS WERE DISPOSED OF AT THE LEO SAUGET DUMP SOUTH OF QUEENY AVE. IS THIS CORRECT?
- A. We acquired land north of the plant in 1928. We sold the tract to the U.S. Government on Feb. 24, 1943. The Plant that produced chemicals for World War II was located on that land. It was owned by the Federal Government and operated by Monsanto under the direction of the Federal Government. After the war, we leased the property and subsequently in 1960 we purchased it. In 1971 the property was sold to the Edwin Cooper firm.

As for Monsanto disposing chemical wastes at the Leo Sauget site in question, we stopped using it in the late '20s or early '30s, well before World War II.

- Q. WHERE WERE THE WASTES DISPOSED OF FROM THE CHEMICAL WARFARE OPERATION?
- A. It is our understanding that these wastes were disposed of on what was then Government property.
- Q. WHAT CHEMICALS WERE MANUFACTURED FOR THE WAR EFFORT AT THE PLANT?
- A. The U.S. Government owned the plant, and the Government had the information on the disposal of wastes. We don't have that information.

CER 008116

SOURCE OF ANSWER

E. N. Brasfield/J. W. Molloy/P. E. Heisler/
M. R. Foresman

HANDLED BY:

John J. Spano

0-3887 (REV.)

005152

PRESS QUERY

CONFIDENTIAL 92-CV-204-WDS

COMPANY (OpUnit or Corporate): MCI

SUBJECT: Cahokia "Smoking Earth"

REPORTER & MEDIA: Roz Harper, KSD Radio
Pat Szymczak, St. Louis Globe-Democrat

TIME & DATE: August 29, 1980

QUESTION & RESPONSE:

Reporters wanted information on smoking earth. Both said they had heard Monsanto people were at the scene recently and that the Cahokia man had received an anonymous call from an alledged Monsanto employee who told him Monsanto was dumping phosphorus.

Read statement of Aug. 27.

Firmly denied allegation that Monsanto was disposing wastes of any kind into "Dead Creek"...name of ditch involved.

Explained that Monsanto has never owned or had any connection with the property in question.

Reminded callers that the EPA office in Collinsville was aware of situation and involved.

Told reporters we had contacted local police authorities.

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C. P. Cunningham
H. W. Curtis
R. W. Flint
P. E. Heisler
J. W. Molloy
W. B. Papageorge
J. J. Spano

CER 008117

SOURCE OF ANSWER

Jack Molloy/Paul Heisler

HANDLED BY:

Sarah Gainer Collins

G-2987 (REV. 8/79)

PRESS QUERY

Dead Creek file

COMPANY (OpUnit or Corporate): MCI

SUBJECT: Soil Samples -- Monsanto/IEPA

REPORTER & MEDIA: Pat Szymczak, Globe Democrat

TIME & DATE: November 19, 1980

QUESTION & RESPONSE:

- Q. MR. KELTY OF THE ILLINOIS EPA TOLD ME THAT HE SAW NO VALUE IN TAKING ADDITIONAL SAMPLES AT DEAD CREEK (AFTER THE EPA HAD ANNOUNCED THE RESULTS OF ITS INITIAL ANALYSIS ON SEPTEMBER 24). MR. KELTY ADDED, "BUT WE AGREED TO RUN THE TESTS BECAUSE MONSANTO REQUESTED THEM." WHY DID MONSANTO MAKE THIS REQUEST?
- A. At a meeting September 29 in Springfield between Monsanto and Illinois EPA representatives, we offered to assist the Illinois EPA in determining the soil content of Dead Creek. We did not request sharing samples and analyses. We had the analytical resources to help and as a responsible industrial citizen of the community we offered our assistance to help resolve the situation.
- Q. THE ILLINOIS EPA SAID THAT THEIR ANALYTICAL TECHNIQUES SHOWED THAT PHOSPHORUS WAS PRESENT IN THE SAMPLE. CAN YOU ELABORATE ON THE RESULTS OF YOUR PHOSPHORUS ANALYSIS?
- A. Monsanto did analyze for elemental phosphorus. No elemental phosphorus was detected in any of the samples, which implies that elemental phosphorus is not responsible for the "smoking earth" condition reported at the site. The type of phosphorus that was found is prevalent in soap, detergents and the soil, among other things. Elemental phosphorus does smolder on exposure to the air but the other type of phosphorus does not result in smoking or smoldering.

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W. B. Papageorge
F. E. Reese
J. J. Spano
M. C. Throdahl
W. W. Varnado

CER 000139

SOURCE OF ANSWER

Files, Jack Molloy and Paul Heisler

HANDLED BY:

John J. Spano

2007 (REV. 8/79)

005154

PRESS QUERY CONFIDENTIAL 92 CV 204 WJS

COMPANY (OpUnit or Corporate): MCI

SUBJECT: Soil Samples -- Monsanto/IEPA

REPORTER & MEDIA: Mike Blackwell, Belleville News-Democrat

TIME & DATE: November 12, 1980

QUESTION & RESPONSE:

- Q. I JUST GOT THE REPORT FROM IEPA ON THE DEAD CREEK SOIL SAMPLES. DO YOU HAVE A COMMENT?
- A. The results of both analyses were generally in agreement within the accuracy of the testing and sampling techniques.

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CER 008140

SOURCE OF ANSWER

File Statement

HANDLED BY:

Sarah Gainer Collins

G-2967 (REV. 8/78)

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